

(d) the details of courses of foreign universities recognized in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) As per Section 22(3) of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, a 'Degree' means any such degree as may, with the previous approval of the Central Government, be specified in this behalf by the University Grants Commission by notification in the official gazette. As regards professional courses, these are also required to be approved by the relevant statutory bodies like All India Council for Technical Education, National Council for Teacher Education and Medical Council of India, etc. subsequent to the approval by the Statutory bodies of the Universities viz. the Academic and the Executive Councils.

(b) The University of Delhi has denied that it is running any unrecognized course.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Recognition to the courses of foreign universities is granted by the Association of Indian Universities for the purpose of their equivalence with the courses conducted by the Indian Universities.

Educational FM Radio Network

1457. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch educational FM radio network of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the cities where it would be started in the near future and by when it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has been guaranteed a license by

[3 August, 2001]

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the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Ministry of Communication, Government of India for operating FM Educational Channel in 40 centres across the country. Gyan Vani FM Channel will be operated in the four metro cities and 36 other stations and will cover a wide network of distance learners and hitherto unreached population of the country. To begin with, IGNOU has initiated action to commission GYAN VANI stations at Lucknow, Coimbatore and Vishakhapatnam by end of 2001.

Self-styled Universities

1458. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in "The Times of India" dated 5th June, 2001 under the caption "Self-Styled Universities are taking students for a ride";

(b) if so, the facts reported therein;

(c) the details of the self-styled Universities or Vishwavidyalayas functioning at present in the country, in contravention of the provisions of UGC Act and the reason therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to take legal action against fake Universities functioning in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) The University Grants Commission (UGC), a statutory body charged with the responsibility of promotion & maintenance of standards of university education and the Government are aware about the news-item captioned "Self-Styled Universities are taking students for a ride" which appeared in the "The Times of India" dated 5th June, 2001. At the beginning of each academic year, the University Grants Commission issues a Press release in all leading news papers informing the public regarding Fake Universities functioning unauthorisedly in the country. The last press release was issued on 1st June, 2001. A list of such fake Universities/Vishwavidyalayas